



public works

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EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME

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THE EPWP CELEBRATE ITS MILESTONE

By: Emmanuel Jiyane



Since the implementation of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) phase 2 in 2009, the Programme had for the first time celebrated its progress and achievements through the National EPWP Week which was launched on 28 November 2013 in Temba, Hammanskraal - Gauteng.

The National EPWP Week which commenced on 28 November-04 December 2013 was held under the theme "EPWP so many lives changed for the better". The initiative was an awareness campaign by the Department of Public Works (DPW) with the objective of re-iterating the role of EPWP in uplifting the lives of poor and unemployed South Africans.

During the launch, the MEC for Infrastructure Development in Gauteng, Ms Qedani Mahlangu did a sod-turning ceremony at the project site where the fencing of the Temba Dam is expected to commence before the end of 2013/2014 financial year. She also embarked on a walk-about at the Greening of Hammanskraal projects.

Within that week, all implementers of the Programme were encouraged to showcase the EPWP achievements by embarking on events such as projects visits, launches, sod-turning activities and site handovers.

Meanwhile, the EPWP Week event in Free State was led by the EPWP Programme Manager, Ms Masego Tshabalalala who Visited Itekgeng Disabled and OVC where they interacted with beneficiaries.

Ms Tshabalala addressed the people attended the event on behalf of the leadership of the Department of Public Works. "Our Government is taking serious note on the problem of unemployment as the major crisis facing our country. Unemployment affects particularly women, youth and people with disabilities. It is also as we are observing 16 Days of Activism against Women and Children, to take note that women and children with disabilities are more vulnerable to abuse and violence than a general population. The 16 Days of Activism does not end today, it must take 365 days a year".

The EPWP Performance on inclusion of people with disabilities in the Non State Sector is commendable. Non State Sector in partnership with IDT is putting more efforts to mainstream disabilities in its projects.

The following are plans to ensure achievements of 2% representation of disabled at EPWP:

- Deal with stereotypes that some work cannot be done by people with disabilities, e.g.
- Infrastructure and Environment Sectors.
- Ensure that sectors have clear selection criteria covering representation of disabilities in projects during processes of setting up projects.
- Appointment of Social facilitators for community mobilization to ensure inclusivity of people with disabilities.
- Collaboration with structures for people with Disabilities to access their database and make selection for EPWP projects.

Celebrating EPWP Week at Malelani, Nkomazi Local Municipality

By Khanyisa Mashele and Faith Nonyana



In celebration of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Week, the Nkomazi Local Municipality in Mpumalanga engaged in various site visits to showcase some of the EPWP projects.

Acting Executive Mayor Councillor PP Magagula emphasised the importance of the day by saying it would give them an opportunity to reflect on the successes and challenges of the EPWP. He expressed gratitude to the EPWP team and announced that

the municipality would implement more projects around the Nkomazi Municipality.

The second one was at a Home Community-Based Care (HCBC) project in Kamhlushwa, which cares for ill members of the community. One of the patients at the centre, Mr Fakude, thanked the HCBC team for helping him to receive his medication and more information regarding his treatment as his health had improved gradually since the HCBC visits.



“Thank you so much to the Home-Based Care team, my life changed from the day they walked into my house. I could not eat, walk or help myself with anything, but now I can eat all kinds of food and walk around,” said Mr Fakude.

The third site visited was the Mzinti Illegal Dumping Site, where a team of EPWP have collected all the dirt and cleaned the environment. They have been trained to recycle some of the dirt and the area now looks cleaner and safer.

The team ended the day at Tonga Mall, where EPWP beneficiaries beautify the surroundings by doing cleaning, gardening and maintenance work.



Thembi Nkuna from Tonga expressed delight that her first job has helped her to save for her child's education, who will be enrolling at a university in 2014. She also mentioned that she would be able to buy furniture for her household as she is the sole breadwinner.

EPWP: So many lives changed for the better



Breede Valley community benefit from the EPWP

By: Kgomotso Mathuloe



Public Works Minister Thulas Nxesi launched the Community Safety and Security Programme in Breede Valley in Worcester in the Western Cape in November 2013.

The programme is a pilot project introduced by the social sector to create work opportunities and expand the sector's involvement at municipal level.

It resulted from a municipal study conducted by the social sector in 2011 through the Independent Development Trust (IDT), which confirmed the huge potential among municipalities to deliver a social services related programme.

Addressing Breede Valley community members, Minister Nxesi said that community safety and security was one of government's priorities to ensure that South Africans are and feel safe.

He said the project was designed to address youth unemployment while rendering security and safety services to school children such as traffic, fire and public safety in the towns and surrounding areas of Breede Valley.

The Minister also emphasised the importance of community involvement in planning and delivering projects. "We need community structures and leaders to ensure the buy-in of the community so that whatever we do or build is looked after and safe-guarded by the community."

Minister Nxesi also praised the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) for hard work and dedication. "The serious point is to remind ourselves that there are large parts of the Public Works family that perform well and in the case of the EPWP, are striving for excellence.

The project employs 52 beneficiaries and additional 48 youths will be recruited to reach 100. This is to ensure representation across all racial groups and all municipal wards.

Beneficiary expresses gratitude towards EPWP

Twenty-year-old Samurin Jooste, from Roodewal in Worcester, is one of the 52 beneficiaries who have been employed for 12-months to work on the community safety and security project in Breede Valley.

In her speech at the launch of the project in November, she drove most community members and officials to tears when she said. "I come from a community where gangsterism and drug abuse are high, but I have reached one of my goals and I am proud of it."

According to Jooste, the project has made a huge impact in her life. "As young people, we face daily difficulties to get employment because most employment agencies want experience. The project gave us hope, dignity and a sense of purpose."

She expressed gratitude to the EPWP for giving her the opportunity to be part of the programme. "The job is interesting and intense; and it is also a great feeling knowing that each day I make a difference in Breede Valley."

Jooste concluded by saying that she wanted to learn more from the project and continue to serve the community. "As traffic wardens we hope to make a difference in road safety so that all South Africans can have a safe journey on the road daily."

MAFIKENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY LAUNCHED WORKING ON FIRE PROJECT

By: Richard Masemola



The Mafikeng Local Municipality, in partnership with the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), launched the “Working on Fire” project on 4 December 2013. This formed part of celebrating the National EPWP Week held from 28 November to 4 December 2013.

Mafikeng Local Municipality is one of the 178 municipalities in the country that have partnered with the EPWP to create work opportunities.

Addressing the EPWP beneficiaries, Head of Public Safety at the Mafikeng Local Municipality, Mr Motswedi John Ramaoka said: “We need to provide youths with fire-and-rescue training which will see them acquiring accredited certificates that will enhance their chances to be employed in different fire departments.”

Simon Manoto from the Mmabatho regional office of the Department of Public Works said the EPWP was targeting all unemployment youths and communities in different rural areas to

alleviate poverty and unemployment. “Let’s continue doing what is best for our community through this intervention,” he said.

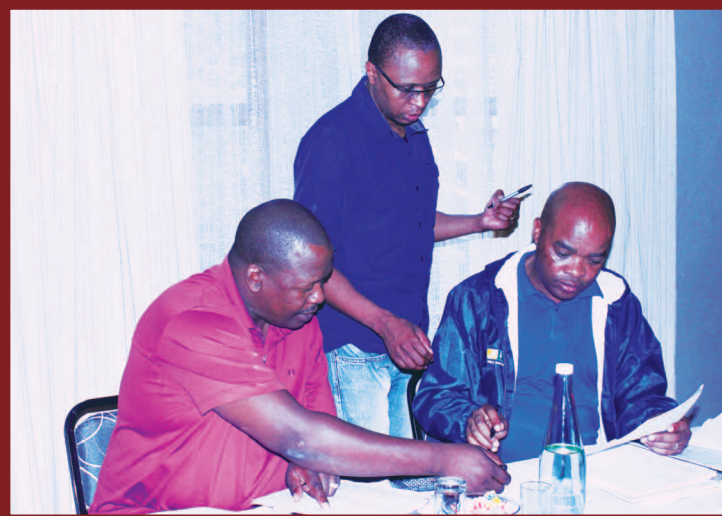
Beneficiary testimonies

Ms Bonolo Maxabase said: “We are so proud for the opportunity given to us. We came with no experience of fire and rescue, but now with this project we will learn and benefit a lot. It requires hard work but with passion and support from our trainers we can make it. We would like to thank the Mafikeng Local Municipality together with the EPWP for this opportunity.”

Ms Ntombizodwa Mhlanga said: “We appreciate the opportunity that the EPWP gave us. I realised that staying at home makes one to relax too much and by doing that, you will not achieve anything in life. This opportunity will equip us by educating us about fire-and-rescue skills to protect our environment. It’s challenging but with support from our trainers we do well. We are really thankful for the opportunities the EPWP gave us, it is empowering!”

EPWP embarks on a capacity-building initiative

By: Irene Nemasetoni



The Enterprise Development (ED) unit within the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) has embarked on a capacity-building drive to enhance the entrepreneurship skills of its managers. The 10-day train-the-trainer course, which is split into two phases, is aimed to empower the ED officials to be able to provide the relevant support to small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs) and cooperatives.

These will ensure that SMMEs and cooperatives comply with regulatory requirements and understand the processes of managing a small business such as pricing, understanding tender processes, bookkeeping and business administration.

The first phase which commenced from 25 to 29 November 2013 was attended by 20 EPWP officials, 13 of whom are ED officials while seven of them represented the EPWP sectors:

Infrastructure, Social, Non-State, and the Environment and Culture Sector. The following modules were covered:

- Introduction to Entrepreneur
- Entrepreneur Opportunities and Ideas
- Financial Skills.

The interactive course was facilitated by the Small Business Advisory Bureau of the University of the North West. The sessions were complimented by daily written assessments to evaluate the trainees' understanding of the course material.

Upon completion, trainees who scored 75% are accredited and certificated as trainers. The ED unit plans to train about 300 EPWP-created SMMEs annually during the implementation of EPWP Phase 3.

Training programme makes an impact on youth development

By: Lesego Moretlwe



The Artisan Development Programme of the National Youth Service has since 2011 been benefitting identified learners from the Northern Cape. The Artisan Development Programme is aimed at addressing high levels of unemployment in South Africa, particularly among youths, by providing them with opportunities to earn an income while acquiring technical skills that will enhance their chances of employment, entrepreneurship and overall development.

The Department of Public Works provides these learners with training through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). The following are some of the beneficiaries who had undergone and passed trade test in learning areas such as Fitting and Turning as well as Welding.

Alromanus Boyes, a 26-year-old male from Springbok, Northern Cape, said it was not an easy journey but was worth it. "It was difficult but I went through, I advise other young, unemployed people to take note of any opportunity that arises as that has helped me to be where I am today," he concluded.

Pearl Rainers, a 22-year-old female from Springbok, said: "I really love the work that I am doing and I abide by the timelines". She also intends to study further within the artisan industry.

Ross Marving, a 32-year-old male from Keimoes, said: "The EPWP is a good initiative which provides skills development to the unemployed and reduce poverty. I am very happy to be part of this programme as it has made my dream come true." He also plans to further his studies within the artisan industry.

KAMOSO AWARDS: REWARDING EXCELLENCE

By: Lesego Moretlwe



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) hosted its prestigious annual flagship event, Kamoso Awards, at Emperors Palace in Kempton Park in October 2013. This ministerial event was instituted in 2007 to reward excellence in implementing the EPWP.



The Department of Public Works (DPW), in its role as the lead coordinator of the programme, uses the awards to encourage, motivate, recognise and reward the best performing government departments, municipalities, provinces and public bodies for their significant contribution in alleviating poverty and unemployment by creating work opportunities.

Speaking during the ceremony, the Minister of Public Works, Thulas Nxesi said “our task as the DPW is to lead a concerted effort from all spheres of government, business, public bodies and all other role players to implement EPWP programmes and to optimise the allocated resources.”

The winners of the EPWP Kamoso Awards within 33 categories and across all four sectors of the EPWP, namely: Infrastructure, Non-State, Environment and Culture and Social, were awarded trophies and certificates.

The following were the winners of the 2013 Kamoso Awards

Category	Award Category	Winners
 Infrastructure Sector	Best Construction project	Cape Algulhas Long Street Cleaning (Western Cape)
	Best Maintenance programme	City of Tshwane – Tsosoloso Maintenance Programme (Gauteng)
	Best Public Body supporting contractor development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nkangala Bulk Water supply to Rockdale (Mpumalanga) Construction of sidewalks at Mookgokong (Limpopo)
	Best Province	KwaZulu-Natal
	Best Metropolitan Municipality	City of Johannesburg
	Best District Municipality	Chris Hani District Municipality
	Best Local Municipality	Polokwane Local Municipality Polokwane Local Municipality
	Best National Department of Public Works Regional Office implementing National Youth Service (NYS)	Johannesburg Regional Office
	Best Provincial Department implementing NYS	Gauteng
	Recognition of the contribution of the State-Owned Enterprises	Recognition of the contribution of the State-Owned Enterprises
 Social Sector	Best Province	Gauteng
	Best Programme: Early Childhood Development	Gauteng Department of Education
	Best Programme: National School Nutrition	Limpopo Department of Education
	Best Programme: Home Community Based Care	KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health

	Best Project: Early Childhood Development	Extra School Support Programme (Gauteng)
	Best Project: Home Community Based Care	Ethekwini Community Care Givers
	Best Project: Community Safety	Free State Security Training Project
	Best Project: Mass Participation	MOD Sport (Western Cape)
	Best Project: Khari Gude	Eastern Cape
	Best Municipality	City of Cape Town
	Best Innovative Project	JMPD Ambassador project (Gauteng)
 Environment and Culture	Best Province	Mpumalanga
	Best Programme	Working for Water (Department of Environmental Affairs)
	Best National Project	Department of Environmental Affairs – Western Cape Greening of Towns
	Best Provincial Project	Limpopo Department of Agriculture Mokgopong Landcare Project
	Best Metropolitan/ District Municipality	City of Cape Town
	Best Local Project	Umjindi Food For Waste Project in Umjindi Rural Area
	Best Sector Model	Department of Tourism National Chefs Training Project
 Non-state sector	Best Province: Non-Profit Organisation Programme	Limpopo
	Best Project: Non-Profit Organisation	Angels of Tomorrow Community Support Centre (North West)
	Best Innovative Project	South African Active Disabled (Mpumalanga)
	Best Project: Community Works Programme	Family Literacy project (KwaZulu-Natal)
Special Category	Best Branded Project	Free State Township Revitalisation Project



Partnership to intensify skills development

By: Kgomotso Mathuloe

Labour Minister Mildred Oliphant announced a multi-million rand project to improve the skills base of South Africa's unemployed youths at a ceremony held in Centurion on 3 December 2013.

The three-year project, which is an initiative of the Unemployment Insurance Fund, will train 8 000 young people in critical skills. Various sector education and training authorities will be critical stakeholders in training young people by emphasising the development of scarce and critical skills.

Addressing stakeholders, Minister Oliphant said that a further R45 million would be allocated to the Department of Public Works' Expanded Public Works Programme to train 900 learners in civil and building engineering.

The project will be implemented in the 2014/15 financial year and learners will receive theoretical and practical learning.

“This project goes a long way in making the lives of our people better,” Minister Oliphant concluded.

IMESA CONFERENCE 2013

By: Faith Nonyana



Port Elizabeth hosted 77th Institute of Municipal Engineering of South Africa (IMESA) Conference at the Boardwalk Convention Centre in Nelson Mandela Bay. The conference was held from 23 to 24 October 2013 under the theme “Municipal Engineering: Meeting People’s Need”.

IMESA's objective is to promote the interests of municipal engineers and create a platform for the exchange of ideas and viewpoints on all aspects of municipal engineering to expand knowledge and best practices in all local municipalities.



“Municipal engineers are behind almost every structure you see everyday, the building we are sitting in right now, water from a tap, the road you drive on to work is service delivery done by municipal engineers,” said Mr Barry Martin, chairperson of the local IMESA branch.

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Infrastructure Sector made a presentation on EPWP services and the use of labour-intensive methods to various municipal engineers, municipal technical personnel and engineering consulting firms. Attendees included municipal engineers, municipal technical personnel, consulting engineers and councillors.

Official recognised for public service excellence



At the Inaugural Batho Pele Excellence Awards 2013 held at the Gallagher Estate in Midrand on 14 November 2013, Ms Masego Tshabalala was announced as a finalist under the category “Best Public Service Creative and Innovator of the Year.” The Programme Manager for the EPWP in Bloemfontein Regional Office, Free State was recognised for her role in serving the Public Service with zeal and dedication.

The Batho Pele Excellence Awards are aimed at rewarding public servants who performed excellently in serving the public. They promote the sharing of best practices, reward good performance and gauge citizen satisfaction towards government performance.

Ms Tshabalala, whose humble beginnings in a rural village of Motswedi in Zeerust, North West included studying for her matric examination under candlelight, graduated from the North West University and Tshwane University of Technology with three degrees. Her childhood misfortunes inspired her to create access to employment opportunities for poor and unemployed people in the Free State.

The former educator works as a Senior Manager in the Department of Public Works (DPW) and is responsible for managing, coordinating, monitoring and evaluating one of the largest job-creation programmes, the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP).

She works with public bodies and non-profit organisations to improve the implementation of job-creation initiatives and maximise the creation of work opportunities in the Free State, especially for the poor and unemployed communities.

One of the highlights of Ms Tshabalala’s career was when she was nominated by DPW to represent South Africa/EPWP at a seminar titled “Employment-Intensive Investment for Sustainable Development” in Turin, Italy from 28 May to 1 June 2012, conducted by the International Labour Organisation.

When asked about her secret to excellence, she said with a smile:

“My definition of excellence is performing an ordinary task in an extraordinary way. This implies that all of us are destined to excel if we can only add that little extra mile; which our department currently needs very badly from the entire DPW family to achieve its turnaround strategy.”